



SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

**DEAF 102 Elementary New Zealand Sign Language**

**TRIMESTER 2 2012**

16 July to 18 November 2012

**1. Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 16 July to 19 October 2012  
 Mid-trimester break: 27 August to 9 September 2012  
 Assessment period: Internal assessment (no exam)

**2. Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**3. Teaching team**

**Course Coordinator & Lecturer**

**Sara Pivac Alexander**  
*Language workshops & lectures*  
 Email: sara.pivac@vuw.ac.nz  
 Office: Von Zedlitz 314  
 Office hour: Mon 1-2pm

**Tutor**

**Mark Berry**  
*Tutorials*  
 Email: mark.berry@vuw.ac.nz  
 Office: Von Zedlitz 314  
 Homework: DEAF102 box, LALS  
 reception VZ 210

**4. Class times and rooms**

**All streams attend** Mon 9.00 – 9.50am (HMLT001) *Lecture*

Plus streamed *language workshops*:

**Stream 1** (CRN 8675) **Mon** 11.00 – 12.50pm (VZ101)

**Stream 2** (CRN 10030) **Tues** 1.10 – 3.00pm (VZ103)

**Stream 3** (CRN 10732) **Tues** 9.00 – 10.50am (VZ103)

**Tutorials**

Select ONE of the following options (sign up sheet on Deaf Studies noticeboard, VZ level 3). All tutorials are held in **VZ 003** (Language Learning Centre – Level 0)

*Group A:* Wed 2.10 - 3.00 pm

*Group C:* Thurs 3.10 – 4.00 pm

*Group B:* Wed 3.10 – 4.00 pm

*Group D:* Thurs 4.10 – 5.00 pm

**Note:** Tutorials start in **week 1** of the course (first tutorial: Wed July 18).

If you can't attend your tutorial for a genuine reason, you may attend another session as a replacement. But please notify the tutor in advance by email - so you will not be marked absent at your regular tut. We expect you to attend test dates in your usual tutorial (and language classes) time.

## 5. Communication of additional information

Announcements and additional information will be posted on Blackboard and/or distributed in class. See [www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz)

Urgent messages will be sent via 'myvuw' student email addresses. If you do not check this email account, please set up a 'forward' to your private email address.

## 6. Course prescription

This course further develops beginners' skills in understanding and using NZSL, and extends students' understanding of the Deaf community and culture in New Zealand. 100% internal assessment.

## 7. Course delivery

The communicative approach to language learning used in this course emphasizes active participation. Interaction in the two-hour language class and tutorial sessions will be conducted entirely in NZSL, to develop skills in a visual language modality. There will be opportunity for spoken questions and discussion in the Monday lecture. Regular language study outside of class is an integral part of learning, and students are therefore expected to independently complete the assigned weekly tasks.

## 8. Course content

This course builds on beginners' knowledge of NZSL with a continued focus on understanding and using the language in everyday situations. Lectures and readings provide background information about the Deaf community and the structure of NZSL. Students will extend their mastery of core vocabulary and grammatical structures, using these in dialogues and short narratives. A schedule of weekly topics will be handed out separately. The course will expand comprehension and expressive skills in the Learning Objective areas below.

## 9. Learning objectives

Students who pass this course will be able to understand and use appropriate sign vocabulary and grammatical structures to do the following in NZSL:

1. Give information about self, family members and relationships
2. Give and understand directions to locations
3. Make and respond politely to requests for assistance
4. Describe characters and a sequence of actions in a short narrative
5. Describe personal appearance and clothing

6. Talk about common occupations
7. Discuss activities in relation to calendar and clock time
8. Use numbers for counting, ordinal numbers, age, prices
9. Demonstrate understanding of selected aspects of Deaf culture and community
10. Identify key organisations in the Deaf world

### **Grammar Structures to be covered:**

*Review (from DEAF 101) of:*

- Simple sentences with personal & possessive pronouns, verbs, adjectives
- Negation – verbs, quantity, replies
- Yes/No questions, Wh questions
- Spatial reference – locations, persons, contrasts
- Listing and ranking

*New grammar structures to be introduced:*

- Role-shifting
- Classifiers (for describing and placing nouns)
- Inflecting verbs (to show subject/ object, location, manner)
- Plural pronouns
- Number forms (price, age, 3-digit)
- Time sequencing

## **10. Expected workload**

Students can expect to do approximately 12 hours of work per week to make good progress in this course. This includes 1 hour of lecture, 2 hours of classes, 1 hour of tutorial, assigned video homework, independent study and language practice.

## **11. Course materials and readings**

### **Required**

1. *NZSL Units 7-12 Student Videotext and Workbook Units 7-12* (Available at vicbooks). Also held at LLC and Library AV Suite.
2. *New Zealand Sign Language Grammar: A Guide for Learners*, McKee & McKee, 2007
3. *DEAF 102 Readings* (Posted in Blackboard)

**Note:** For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks.

### **Additional practice materials**

1. *DEAF 102 Videotext and Workbook* (Available in LLC and on Reswin server)
2. *Beginner NZSL Exercises Online*, Volume 1, 2 & 3 (see link from LLC homepage)  
[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/edith\\_dev/nzsl/index.htm](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/edith_dev/nzsl/index.htm)
3. Extra NZSL video and reading material is held at LLC and at the library AV suite listed under DEAF 102.

### **Other relevant reading/viewing**

1. *Online NZSL Dictionary*: <http://nzsl.vuw.ac.nz>
2. *In the Land of the Deaf* Full-length documentary film about the Deaf world in France - covers education, sign language, Deaf community, performing arts. Highly recommended! (VUW library, AV suite)
3. *Topics in New Zealand Sign Language Studies*. Kennedy, G. (Ed.) English Language Institute, Deaf Studies Research Unit, Occasional Publication No. 1 1996. (Available at VUW library or Student Notes)
4. *NZSL: Distribution, Origins, Reference*. Kennedy, G. (Ed.) DSRU, School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Occasional Publication No. 2 1999 (Available at library or Student Notes)
5. *Australian Sign Language: An introduction to sign language linguistics*. Trevor Johnston & Adam Schembri, 2007. (VUW Library, 3-day Loan, HV2474 J721 A)
6. *Deaf Way, Deaf View A Study of Deaf Culture from a Deaf Perspective*, (1999) Penman, Peter. Unpublished Masters thesis, VUW (VUW library, Closed Reserve)
7. *Inside Deaf Culture* Carol Padden & Tom Humphries. 2005 Harvard University Press (VUW library. Call mark HV2545 P123 I)
8. *A Journey into the Deaf-World* Lane, H., R. Hoffmeister, & B. Bahan, San Diego: Dawn Sign Press. 1988. (VUW library. Call mark HV2380 L265 J)
9. *Seeing Voices: A Journey into the World of the Deaf*. Sacks, Oliver. University of California Press, 1989. (VUW library. Call mark HV2370 S119 S 1990)
10. Schein, J. (1989) *At Home Among Strangers: Exploring the Deaf Community in the United States*. Washington D.C.: Gallaudet University Press (VUW library. Call mark HV2545 S318 A)
11. *Seeing Voices: A Journey into the World of the Deaf*. Sacks, Oliver. University of California Press, 1989. (VUW library. Call mark HV2370 S119 S 1990).

## **12. Assessment requirements and dates**

Your progress will be internally assessed by four language tests and one written test as follows:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Test 1 (In tut Aug 8/9)                 | 10% |
| 2. Test 2 (In tut August 22/23)            | 10% |
| 3. Test 3 (In tut Sept 26/27)              | 25% |
| 4. Test 4 (In class & tut, week of Oct 15) | 45% |
| 5. Written test (in lecture class Oct 15)  | 10% |

Assessments encourage you to review what you have learned and provide feedback on your progress. Tests 1 and 2 will assess comprehension skills. Tests 3 and 4 will assess receptive and expressive signing skills, including a comprehension test and a video-recorded sample of your signing. All tests will be directly linked to the vocabulary, grammar, and topics covered in lectures and the videotext.

The written in-class test will be based on material relating to NZSL grammar and the Deaf community, presented in lectures and readings.

- Details of test content will be provided in class and Blackboard a week prior.
- If you need special accommodations or support in relation to assessments, please talk to Course Coordinator, Sara Pivac Alexander, as early as possible.
- An aegrotat pass will normally be approved only when a candidate has completed at least 30% of the course assessment.

**Note:** Please notify Sara Pivac Alexander *in advance* if you can't attend a test and need to make special arrangements (such as attending an alternate class session to take the test). Tests will not be re-scheduled for individuals without prior agreement or medical certificate in the case of unexpected illness.

### 13. Grade Scale

The scale for final course grades in DEAF 102 is as follows\*:

A+	91 -100 %	Excellent performance in all respects
A	85 - 90 %	Excellent performance in almost all respects
A-	80 - 84 %	Very good, some aspects excellent but others not
B+	75 - 79 %	
B	70 - 74 %	Good performance overall
B-	65 – 69 %	
C+	60 – 64 %	Work satisfactory overall, strengths outweigh weaknesses
C	50 - 59 %	
D	40 - 49 %	Poor performance overall, weaknesses outweigh strengths
E	0 - 39 %	Well below the standard required
K	Fail due to not satisfying mandatory course requirements, even though the student's course mark reached the 50% level specified for a pass	

\* This differs from the general VUW grade scale. Language tests in this course are designed to measure mastery of specific language structures that have been practised in class. In general, scores on these types of tests are higher and less spread than scores on other types of assessment (eg, essays), because test items are highly specified and set at a level to enable students to demonstrate achievement of the learning objectives. For this reason, the points bands in the grade scale are slightly higher, to differentiate levels of performance.

### 14. Mandatory course requirements

Learning NZSL requires face-to-face interaction, so your attendance at all scheduled sessions is vital to progress in the course. Regular study and practice is important in learning any language, therefore completion of all video homework tasks is required as a minimum. To gain a pass for this course, students must:

- **Attend at least 80% of language class sessions** (ie, **10 out of 12 sessions**). Class attendance is essential and will be marked. Please notify your lecturer of expected absences or illness.
- **Attend at least 80% of tutorials** (ie, **10 out of 12 sessions**). Tutorial attendance is essential and expected. Please notify your tutor of expected absences or illness.
- Complete **all assessment tasks** listed above (4 practical tests and written exam)
- Hand in completed **video work** weekly (as per Homework Schedule)

### **What to do if you cannot attend a class**

If for a genuine reason, you have to miss a language class or tutorial, please notify your lecturer Sara Pivac Alexander or tutor Mark Berry by email. Try to attend one of the other streams that week, or an alternative tutorial session in the case of a missed tutorial.

If that is impossible, here are some ways that you can catch up on what you missed:

- Check the Course Resources folder in BB for that week - for a vocab list, etc.
- Make sure you have studied the video homework - this covers relevant material.
- Ask a classmate to go over any new language with you.
- See your teacher in office hours if you need further pointers on what was covered.

Although each lesson builds on what you have learned in previous lessons, and your teacher will normally include review in class, they will not always have time to 're-teach' language that one student may have missed during a previous class. It is your responsibility to catch up on you what you have missed, using the strategies above.

## **15. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully.

**This course is assessed entirely through in-class language and content tests, and there is no submission of written assignments.** However, to find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, please see the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **16. Class representative policy**

<http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~000000000803.pdf>

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

## **17. Where to find more detailed information**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study).

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress).

Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).